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**TSWELOPELE MOREMI  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

## **LAUNCH OF THE SACU STATISTICAL DATABASE 28 FEBRUARY 2012**

I would like to welcome everyone to the launch of the SACU Statistical Database. Let me also welcome the consultants from Digital Plus, Mr. Alex Muluwe, Chief Solutions Architect and Mr. Alinani Simuchimba, Software Developer.

SACU Secretariat initiated the development of a statistical database partly as a response to increasing requests for SACU trade and economic data from external stakeholders and most importantly, for internal use at the Secretariat. The database will also be used as a tool to monitor the performance of the SACU Member States in achieving the objective of economic development, industrialization and competitiveness. It will also inform the processes of policy development and trade negotiations.

Thus, the Secretariat approached Digital Plus, the company that also developed the COMESA online database to develop the SACU statistical

database. And in this process we also acknowledge the assistance we got from COMESA Secretariat with the training on Eurotrace software, and their contribution on preparing trade data from SACU Member States for the database. The project was supervised by a project team consisting of representatives of the different departments namely; David Maleleka, Abel Sindano, Richard Yawe, Motselisi Matsela and Khutsafalo Sekolokwane.

Therefore, today marks a formal launch of the SACU database, and we will have an opportunity to see the database portal that has been developed. Digital Plus consultants will present to us how the portal works and how to use it. The database will be made accessible to the professional staff for the initial period of two weeks with the aim of soliciting comments for improvements before the database can be made accessible to the public by mid-March 2012. While database has data from all Member States, I note that there were delays in uploading of South African trade data, and this will be done within a period of four weeks.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish Mr. Alex Muluwe and Mr. Alinani Simuchimba a wonderful stay in Windhoek and a safe journey back to Lusaka.

I thank you